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Dr. Edmund B. Wilson, late lecturer on biology in Williams College and author of zoölogical essays of sterling value. The standard of science-teaching in our American colleges is steadily rising.

— The *Naturæ Novitates*, published during the last six years every fortnight by R. Friedländer & Sohn, at Berlin, is sold for a dollar a year, and proves a useful bibliographic list of current literature of all nations on natural history and the exact sciences, with brief news items, which we find of occasional use.

— The meeting of the German naturalists and physicians was opened September 18, at Magdeburg; over a thousand members were present. The association will meet next year at Strasburg, with Professors Kussmaul and De Bary as secretaries.

— Professor Dr. Arnold Foerster, the well known hymenopterist, died at Aachen, Aug. 13. He was a school-teacher, and we well remember his courteous greeting when we called on him twelve years ago.

— Alfred E. Brehm, the author of *Illustriertes Thierleben*, and well known as a traveler, died in November last; he was born in 1829. Dr. L. Fitzinger, the well-known zoölogist of Vienna, died Sept. 22.

— We regret to notice that *Science Record*, of which two volumes have appeared, published by S. E. Cassino & Co., and edited by Mr. J. S. Kingsley, ceased to exist with the December number.

— The next meeting of the Society of Naturalists, E. U. S., was to be held at Washington, D. C., during the week following Christmas, 1884.

— The late Sir Erasmus Wilson's munificent bequest to the Royal College of Surgeons is expected to reach the sum of £200,000.

— On July 25, 1884, died in London George B. Sowerby, known as a conchologist and palæontologist. He continued the *Thesaurus Conchyliorum* begun by his father.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1884.—The following communications were presented: Mr. Sanderson Smith on the recent deep-sea explorations of the United States Fish Commission, with special reference to geological results; Mr. Leonard Stejneger exhibited specimens illustrating the shedding of the bill in auks; Dr. George Vasey on the grasses of the arid plains; Mr. Charles D. Walcott on the oldest known fauna on the American continent; Professor Lester F. Ward on the occurrence of the seventeen-year locust in Virginia in October, 1884.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Nov. 10.—The following paper was read: Elephants, ancient and modern, with reference also to the extinction of the mammoth; and notes on the small elephants lately brought to this city from farther India (with lantern illustrations), by Professor H. L. Fairchild.

Dec. 1.—The paper of the evening was Iroquois customs and language, by Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Nov. 5.—Mr. S. Garman exhibited a novel type of flounder; and Mr. John M. Batchelder spoke of the lamprey as a builder.

Dec. 3.—Mr. F. W. Putnam gave an account of the explorations of ancient earthworks in Ohio, made during the past season by Dr. Metz and himself for the Peabody Museum.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, Nov. 10.—Lieutenant Shufeldt, U. S. Navy, delivered a lecture entitled, Madagaskara: the land of Sinbad, the sailor; a journey of exploration across the great African island (illustrated with twenty-five stereopticon views from original photographs taken by the lecturer).

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, Boston, Nov. 12.—The reports of councillors was presented, and Mr. Samuel H. Scudder read a paper entitled, The Alpine Club of Williamstown, Mass.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, May 1.—No less than fifty distinct species of sponges from Florida were presented by Mr. Jos. Willcox. This gentleman remarked that the limestone of the peninsula is eroded into numberless caverns, and is full of sinkholes, yet when exposed it is hard and in some localities marble-like. He believed that sea-urchins cannot have protection in view when they cover themselves with sea-weed, as they are more conspicuous thus covered. The common *Busycon pyrum* of the coast always deposits its eggs below the sand, attaching the egg-cases to a shell at least eight inches below the surface. Two mollusks, *Fasciolaria tulipa* and *Melongina corona*, break holes in the shields of king-crabs and eat out the flesh. Saw-fishes are abundant in shallow water, and it was observed that when they were speared they would turn up the saw and pull it repeatedly across the handle of the spear, soon making a notch. The sand of the beach is siliceous, and is probably derived from the mainland of Georgia. Mr. Potts stated that he had received several fine fresh-water sponges from the St. John's river, near Palatka. One of these he believed to be a new *Meyenia*, for which he proposed the name *subdivisa*. Mr. Ford reported the finding of *Pholas cuneiformis* in a billet of wood at Anglesea.

May 8.—Dr. Leidy exhibited fragments of a tapeworm widely differing from the tapeworms usually found in man, and probably

belonging to *Tenia flavopunctata*, a species observed but once before, when it was described by Professor Weinland. It is probably more common than might be supposed; its small size (fifteen inches or so in length) may have caused it to pass unnoticed, or it may have been confounded with other species.

May 16.—Dr. McCook gave the details of the mode in which *Lycosa riparia* forms its egg-ball; the spider (one kept in captivity) made an excavation and covered it with a thin sheet of silk; on the wall of her cave she then spun a cushion of white plush about three-fourths of an inch in diameter; in about half an hour the egg-mass was deposited and covered over with a layer of silk similar to that of which the cushion was composed; soon after the cushion had disappeared, and the round ball was dangling from the end of the spider's abdomen in the usual manner; as the spider has not excavated since, her evident object was to secure seclusion. The same speaker called attention to the discovery, by Mr. Alan Gentry, of spiders in full health and activity beneath the surface of the ice of a frozen pond; when found they were passing from point to point on lines stretched between water plants at a distance of eight or ten feet from the bank. Dr. Leidy exhibited specimens of *Pentastomum proboscidium* from the lungs of a Florida rattlesnake. Mr. Potts announced the discovery of great numbers of *Cristatella* in Harvey's lake, near Wilkesbarre. Specimens six inches long were found. In traveling they did not follow the sinuous course usual in the genus. The colonies have a persistent non-polypiferous appendage. As a provisional name he proposed *Cristatella lacustris*.

May 22.—Mr. Willcox stated that shell-mounds abound on the west coast of Florida. A portion of the town of Cedar Keys is built on such a mound. Human bones, stone implements and fragments of pottery are frequently found among the shells. On St. John's island, at the mouth of the Cheeshowiska river, may be seen a former place of manufacture of stone implements. Professor Heilprin announced that in addition to the foraminiferous genera previously described (*Orbitoides*, *Nummulites*, *Operculina*, *Heterosteginae*, *Biloculina*, *Quinqueloculina*) he had found *Spheroidina* in the rock-masses from Florida. He believed that none of the genera save *Orbitoides* had before been found in America. He had found a second species of *Nummulites*, also one or two additional forms of *Orbitoides*, one of which (*O. ephippium*) proves beyond doubt the Oligocene age of the deposits. Mr. Potts stated that a correspondent in Jamaica had failed to find a single fresh-water sponge. He said that in obstructed water pipes he could find no traces of sponge, but only clay with iron impregnation. The skeleton spicules of *Meyenia leidy* undergoes degeneration in the presence of iron.